



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
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MAY RED MEAT PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA - Commercial red meat production during May 2008 totaled 300,000 pounds. This was up 5 percent from May 2007 but down 23 percent from April 2008 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 504,000 pounds live weight, up 7 percent from May 2007. Cattle slaughter totaled 500 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 1,121 pounds, was down 6 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 129,000 pounds live weight, up 17 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 500 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight, at 246 pounds, was up 17 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 18,000 pounds live weight, slaughter totaled 100 head, and the average live weight was 135 pounds. Comparison data from the previous year were not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES - Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.22 billion pounds in May, up 4 percent from the 4.08 billion pounds produced in May 2007.

Beef production, at 2.38 billion pounds, was 4 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.14 million head, up 3 percent from May 2007. The average live weight was up 19 pounds from the previous year, at 1,251 pounds.

Veal production totaled 11.5 million pounds, 7 percent below May a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 71,100 head, up 21 percent from May 2007. The average live weight was down 74 pounds from last year, at 275 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.82 billion pounds, up 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.06 million head, up 3 percent from May 2007. The average live weight was down 1 pound from the previous year, at 268 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.0 million pounds, was down 3 percent from May 2007. Sheep slaughter totaled 206,400 head, 6 percent below last year. The average live weight was 146 pounds, up 4 pounds from May a year ago.

January to May 2008 commercial red meat production was 21.0 billion pounds, up 7 percent from 2007. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was down 11 percent, pork was up 11 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

May 2007 contained 23 weekdays (including one holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

May 2008 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

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